

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)

July 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

[Daniel 6:10]



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The opposition tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in the discharge of his duties.

P: *Help us to be above board so that we will not malign your name through our shortcomings.*

L: The enemies realized that the only way to find fault in Daniel was in the law of his God.

P: *Lord, grant us integrity of heart that even our enemies will acknowledge our devotion to you.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

472

"Near to the Heart of God"

*AFFIRMATION FROM ROMANS

- UMH 887

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 6:1-16

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

110

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (in unison)

Amazing God, we pray that through the Holy Spirit your preferred future for Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church will be made known to us. We ask that you use us to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our friends, family, and community. Give us the courage to follow the leading of your Holy Spirit wherever that may take us. Open our eyes so that we may see the new things you are already doing among us. AMEN.

~Joys and Concerns

~The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS - We encourage you to share beyond your regular offering. The loose offering received today will go to The Evangelism Fund.

OFFERTORY

***Doxology** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" # 95

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept our tithes and offerings, O Lord, together with our lives, to be used by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, for the expansion of your kingdom, in our local Community, and around the face of the earth, that many shall come to know your Son, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

#352

"It's me, It's me, Oh Lord"

SCRIPTURE READING

James 5:13-18

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

Courage Driven by Our Convictions - Daniel in the Den of Lions

*CLOSING HYMN

395

"Take Time to Be Holy"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation
Media Team: Phyllis Flowers & Paul Jassogne
Media Team (Live Streaming): Lee Ann Whitmer
Church Secretary: Lee Ann Whitmer
Custodian: Jeff Byerly
Pianist: Jackie Howard
Liturgist: Greg Howard
Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

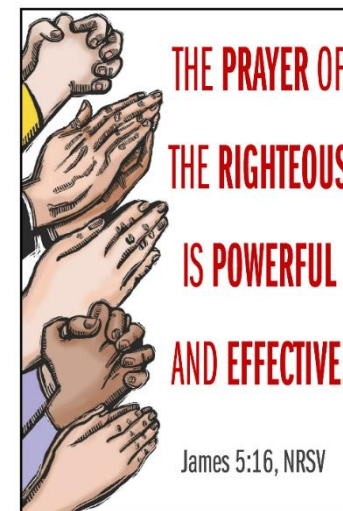
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

July 28, 2024

(Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)



Worship Service starts at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Children's Church (ages 5-13) starts at 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

Pastor's cell: 614-296-1081

Pastor's email: aaonabanjo@yahoo.com

Office email: sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com

Church: (740) 653-1196

Fax: (740) 653-6780

Website: 6thavegmc.org

Sunday, July 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

5:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Chapel)

11:30 a.m. Lay Pastoral Care Team Meeting (Parlor)

Saturday, August 3, 2024

7:00 a.m. Weekly Prayer Huddle (see details in announcements)

Sunday, August 4, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2024

Birthdays

30 Lee Ann Whitmer

31 Betsy Dickson

Anniversaries

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2024

Birthdays

1 Jeremiah Cupps

1 William Shauger

2 Jeff Shumaker

3 Dan Cochran

4 Gracie Thress

14 Jen Lentz

14 Charletta Shahan

14 Curtis Witham

16 Kara Reed

17 Kyle Trogus

17 Pastor 'Debo Onabanjo

Anniversaries

5 Alton & Bonnie Currence

8 Robert & Karen Trogus

13 Jeff & Vivian Shumaker



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313

Luxe: Elaine Hill, Sheridan Wing, 108

Jim Robertson (Billie's brother), Sheridan Hall, 306

Jim Funkhouser, Eckert Wing, 207A

Main Street Terrace: Marilyn Lawson, 36

Primrose: Bill & Doris Shauger, 121

The Ridge: Fred Beougher, 140

Barb Cook, 103

Continued prayers are requested for:

Amanda Baker, Dave Bash, Sharon Byerly, Barbara Cook, John Cook, Ken Cook, Dorothy Dunn, Tommy Eblin, Walt Fawcett, Sharon Funkhouser, Ed Gurile, Clara Herrick, Cindy, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Mykel Henderly, Dixie Hoskinson, Joan Irwin, Billy Jeffery, Elizabeth Jones, Jill Jubach, Eleanor & Bob Kane, Marilyn Lawson, Carl & Sharon Mathias, Jingur Nichols, Vicki Oatney, Beth Patton, Mark & Donna Shouldis, Rod Shouldis, Kathy Starner, Don Taylor, Kara Whitmer-Beatty, Greg & Sandie White.

If you have a prayer concern or praise to share, please fill out a green prayer card found in the pew and give it to an usher before the worship service begins. Thank you for allowing us to pray for and with you!

Pastor's Bible Study: This holds on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We continue this week our study of the short Epistle (Letter) of James whose authorship according to church tradition has been ascribed to James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ. He was a leader of the Jerusalem church and the audience were Jewish Christians, most likely Jerusalem believers who had become scattered after the martyrdom of Stephen. In the short but powerful letter written perhaps before AD 50, James emphasizes the need for living the Christian life by embracing good deeds motivated by faith. We will cover **chapters 3-5** this week - please read the chapters in advance. The Bible Study is open to all members of the community. In addition to the joy of worship and fellowship on Sundays, our time together during Bible Study is always a blessing. We spend some time to pray at the end of the Bible Study for personal and general prayer requests. Please invite a neighbor or friend and thanks for making time to attend.

Summer Message Series: We continue our **Summer Message Series, "Courage Driven by Our Convictions"** as we explore the biblical story of **Daniel in the Den of Lions** today. In this Message Series, we are talking a deeper dive into the lives of courageous men and women, ordinary characters whose stories are captured in the Bible who through the courage of their convictions were used by God to do supernatural exploits. Courage borne out of our convictions is the confidence to act in accordance with one's beliefs. It is also the determination to do what we believe is right regardless of whether others approve or agree with us. The Message Series which started on Sunday July 14th will run through Sunday September 1st.

AWAKEN – Lay Equipping Weekend – We are pleased to announce this special event by the Discipleship Team of the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference from Friday September 6 to Saturday September 7 at Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, 207 S. Court Street, Marysville, OH 43040. This event is designed for individuals and teams who want to grow in their spiritual leadership, and **Awaken** is also the first component of our Certified Lay Ministry training. The rest of the training will be completed through four daylong equipping sessions focused on congregational care, teaching the Bible, being Global Methodist, and missions/evangelism. The cost is \$50 and will include snacks, breakfast and lunch. At the September Awaken event, more information will be shared for the additional sessions for those interested. Please see the flyer in the Narthex for more details. If anyone feels led to attend this equipping event, please contact Pastor 'Debo to learn more. Thanks!

Lay Pastoral Care Giving Meeting: This is to invite all those involved in our Lay Pastoral Care Ministry to please attend a meeting on **Wednesday July 31, 2024** after Bible Study at 11:30am. New volunteers are welcome to also attend the meeting. As a Community of faith, it is our collective responsibility to nurture, care for and support one another. The Lay Pastoral Care Giving Team are volunteers who work under the supervision of the Pastor to help provide pastoral care and support. A training will be organized for all those interested in the month of August. Please let Pastor 'Debo or Dottie Raymond know of your interest. Thanks!

Engagement of Pastoral Coach – Invitation to Participate – Final Notice: We appreciate those who have already signed up in response to the recent circular letter to all members and announcements during worship. As part of our ongoing discernment of the preferred future that we believe God has been preparing our community of faith for, we have invited **Rev. Doug Lynn, a Certified Pastoral Church Coach and Counselor** to walk alongside us for a short season as a Church Coach. This information was also shared by the leadership at our Congregational Meeting held on Sunday **May 19, 2024**. Rev. Lynn was our Guest Preacher on Sunday May 5. The next steps as he carries out this important assignment is for him to meet with members of the congregation. Depending on the preference of the member, Rev. Lynn can be invited as a guest to your home or you can ask to meet with him at any of the Coffee Shops in Lancaster. You can also ask to meet with Rev. Lynn at the Church. The available days to meet with Rev. Lynn would be either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. This process involves both churches of the Lancaster Charge – Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC. These meetings would be an opportunity for Rev. Lynn to *"Listen, Inquire, and Make Observations"* about the life of our particular community of faith. In his own words, Rev. Lynn wants to *"hear from those that are concerned about the life of their respective congregations before making any specific recommendations."* It is anticipated that this process would be completed no later than July 2024 depending on when the requested meetings with members are finalized. Please contact Lee Ann at the Sixth Avenue Church Office to ask about when you can meet with Rev. Lynn.

Pastor's Corner:

Courage in the Face of Danger – Daniel in the Den of Lions (Daniel 6:10, NLT)

"But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He PRAYED three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God."

Daniel who had determined not to defile himself as a young Hebrew exile in Babylon had risen to a position of prominence and the new king, Darius the Mede chose Daniel and two other administrators to supervise the other officers appointed to rule over the 120 provinces of his empire (see **Daniel 6:1-2**). The Spirit of the Lord was no doubt upon Daniel, and he soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers.

As the king was contemplating how to place Daniel as head administrator over his empire, opposition arose against him. Because of his integrity, they could not find anything to criticize about Daniel. The Bible describes Daniel as *"faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy."* (**Daniel 6:4**) What would others have to say about you? Are you seen as a person of integrity commanding respect even amongst unbelievers? Those opposed to Daniel then concluded as follows: *"Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."* (**Daniel 6:5**)

Daniel was diligent and carried out his duties even in a pagan nation while maintaining his devotion to his God that even his detractors noticed. **What will your unbelieving colleagues or neighbors have to say about you?** It does not really matter what we profess, if there is a disconnect between what we profess and what we practice, even unbelievers will see through our hypocrisy. To carry out their sinister plan to entrap Daniel, the other administrators and leading officers approached king Darius and convinced him to issue an order that for the next thirty days, no one should pray to anyone – divine or human except to the king. Anyone who violated this law would be thrown into the den of lions (see **Daniel 6:6-8**).

These individuals cleverly played on the king's inflated ego and pride to set in motion a plan to get at Daniel who was well loved by the king. The king fell for the trap and signed the law which could not be revoked in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians. Have you ever been the target of a plan by detractors to get at you for doing what is right? In our focus text for today, Daniel after learning that the law had been signed did not stop his regular practice of prayer to God. He went home and *"knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God."* (**Daniel 6:10**) The officials went to Daniel's home and found him praying and asking for God's help. Without wasting time, the officials went to the king and reported the violation of the king's decree banning prayer to anyone, divine or human apart from the king.

The king, who was unaware of the nefarious plan to ensnare Daniel affirmed the law he had signed as irrevocable. The officials then reported to the king that Daniel was ignoring his law and had continued to pray to his God three times a day. When the king heard this, he became deeply troubled and realized he had been tricked by Daniel's detractors into signing the law to get at Daniel. Out of love and respect for Daniel and no doubt due to his diligence and trustworthiness, the king tried to find a way to get Daniel out of this situation but to no avail. Daniel was eventually thrown into the den of lions and the stone covering to the entrance was sealed by the king's royal seal and that of his officials. The king was very distraught and went back to his palace and could not sleep at all that night. The good news is that God shut the mouth of the lions and they did not harm Daniel. When they lifted Daniel out of the den, they discovered that he had not been harmed in any way. Daniel trusted in the Lord his God, and he was not disappointed.

Where do you need to take a stand like Daniel did and trust the Lord to protect you from your adversaries? Those who know their God will always resist evil in whatever shape or form it presents itself.

Pastor 'Debo

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (July 28, 2024 – August 3, 2024):

(Scripture passages are from the New International Version (NIV) Bible unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday July 28

Scripture Reading Daniel 6:1-16; Reflection Verse: Daniel 6:10

“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did Daniel still pray three times daily after the decree had been published?

Monday July 29

Scripture Reading Daniel 6:17-28; Reflection Verses: Daniel 6:21-22

“Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Can you recall a time when the Lord protected you from the evil plan of others?

Tuesday July 30

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 19:1-15; Reflection Verses: Jeremiah 19:14-15

“Jeremiah then returned from Topheth, where the Lord had sent him to prophesy, and stood in the court of the Lord’s temple and said to all the people, “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Listen! I am going to bring on this city and all the villages around it every disaster I pronounced against them, because they were stiff-necked and would not listen to my words.’”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When have you summoned courage to convey a difficult message to others?

Wednesday July 31

Scripture Reading: James 5:1-12; Reflection Verse: James 5:8

“You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where do you need to be patient and stand firm as you await the Lord’s coming?

Thursday August 1

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-14; Reflection Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you allowing the Spirit to give you power, love and self-discipline? Where do you need to exhibit more of the Spirit’s power?

Friday August 2

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:16-32; Reflection Verse: Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will not be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God.

Saturday August 3

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; Reflection Verses: Matthew 26:74-75

“Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did Peter deny Jesus? When have you chickened out like Peter out of fear?

Daniel 6:1-16

Daniel in the Den of Lions

6 ^[a]It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

James 5:13-18

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.